J.D. Vance
Ohio's 9th President of the United States

by Peter Fedynsky
Parma, OH

https://tinyurl.com/2p9r2h5b

Peter Fedynsky is a retired 34-year veteran of the Voice of America. He served in various capacities, including VOA Moscow Bureau Chief and anchor of "Window on America," a weekly Ukrainian Service TV news magazine that has aired nationwide in Ukraine since January 1993. He also wrote and hosted "Making Democracy Work," a VOA English radio program on the theory and practice of democracy.

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Mr. Future President,

The current southern border crisis, our national debt, massive offshoring of jobs and industrial capacity, inflated grocery and fuel prices, global warming, deaths of despair, foreign disinformation and other negative factors jeopardize American greatness. You and I know that; many Americans are righteously angry about it. However, we cannot maintain our prosperity and standing atop a world in which fiber optic cables, satellites, jet travel, super container ships, ICBM missiles and free trade have blurred national borders across the globe. But when have they ever been long secure? Medieval castle walls gave way to cannons and America's oceans were overcome by hijacked jetliners on 9/11. Sea-based Russian nuclear missiles can hit the United States in as little as 15 minutes. As the French say, the more things change, the more they remain the same. So what's going on? How do you deal with it?

The bad guys have the same access to modern technology invented by Americans as the good guys. As a result, the situation our nation faces today is not unlike that of Ancient Rome, which was brought down by Caesarism, decadence, corruption, cynicism and barbarians. The latter exerted costly military pressure, economic strains, and political instability on Rome. They also seized territory that had buffered the Empire and provided it with useful goods and services.

Fast forward 1200 years from Caesar to the Mongol invasion of the Kyivan Rus Empire. Without going into details of the respective duration and impact of Mongol domination on what became Ukraine and Russia, suffice it to say that the Horde controlled Muscovy twice as long. Ukraine, roughly speaking, was influenced for 400 years by the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth; Muscovy was ruled by the Mongols for 300 years. Both suzerains had significant implications for the disparate political, social, and cultural development of Ukraine and Russia. The experience of Mongol rule contributed to Russian authoritarianism, autocracy and impressive imperial conquest of Asia across the Bering Strait into Alaska. Poland and Lithuania exposed Ukrainians to more a democratic and Western orientation on the tectonic plate of East and West.

Fast forward again to World War One that resulted in the collapse of the Ottoman, Austro-Hungarian and German Empires; the Russian Empire morphed into the Soviet Union. Today's turmoil in the Middle East is a direct consequence of the lines drawn there by Britain after the Ottoman collapse. Hitler waged another World War to revive Germany's empire. Moscow, a WWII belligerent, managed to expand its empire up to the Iron Curtain. Today, Vladimir Putin considers the Soviet collapse to be "the greatest geopolitical catastrophe of the 20th century." It would be imprudent to discount the possibility that he, like Hitler, seeks to reconstitute the empire whose loss he laments. If America allows him to do "whatever the hell he wants," as Donald Trump recently put it, in the event NATO allies don't pay the bills, he will. The Kremlin, having seized Ukraine, will take him up on that generous offer. And the American taxpayer will pay an even higher bill to protect our interests, if he or she are even able to. $60 billion for

Ukraine now is a whole hell of a lot but seems much better than trillions later.

If you have any doubt about barbarians today, look at the photos in this pamphlet of militarized Russian kids and clergy. The militarization is systemic and widespread. 1.5 million Russian children belong to the Kremlin--sponsored equivalent of the Hitlerjugend.

Russians, referred to for a while as Soviet Communists, drove my parents out of Ukraine in World War Two along with millions of others fleeing for their lives. As their son, I maintained Ukrainian fluency, learned German and Russian, and spent about four years of my life in Russia and Ukraine, most of it as Voice of America Moscow correspondent. I also worked as a State Department interpreter in many high level meetings and have an idea of the difficult issues discussed behind closed doors. On that basis, I believe you are dead wrong about Ukraine. But I also recognize that you have a better than even chance of becoming President of the United States. I would want you to succeed. But if I am right about Ukraine and you are not, your administration will be a disaster, incapable of addressing the many pressures a victorious Putin, or his successor and allies will exert on the American armed forces, allies, and markets. They will overwhelm our treasury like Reagan overwhelmed theirs. Russia, unlike its proxies that drove the United States out of Vietnam, Iraq and Afghanistan, has the military and industrial capacity, diplomatic heft and historical drive to eventually pose a renewed and ongoing threat to the United States. Russian victory in Ukraine would be a capstone in the post-World Wat II proxy wars, in which both sides made stupid mistakes and lost a lot of blood and treasure, not that anyone in the Kremlin cares. If you don't either, well, it's game, set and match. To the victor the spoils. I'm not OK with that, not as a descendant of Ukrainians, nor as a native-born America.

If I am right, your outspokenness about Ukraine has painted you into a political corner. But if somewhere along the line you might begin to agree with me, you can get yourself out of it by going on a CODEL to Ukraine and explaining that circumstances that forced you to change your position for the good of the United States. You have five years left for voters to appreciate the wisdom and courage of what would be an epic, but necessary flip-flop. Nonetheless you can still run for the presidency and win, not as a Caesar riding herd over a diminished and disgruntled America, but as a visionary Augustus who makes America great again. It can be done. Carpe diem, Senator.

Though you can no longer be the Never-Trumper you once were, you can nonetheless be a Temporary Trumper. I suggest that you distance yourself from Mr. Trump's toxic divisiveness and also expand your intellectual horizon beyond Peter Thiel. He may be wealthy but money is not the criterion for historical acumen and vision.

Politics is the art of the possible and what I suggest is indeed difficult given your entrenched views. The problem, however, is that there aren't many artists left in politics. Historian Oswald Spengler noted in his book, "The Decline of the West," that one of the signs civilizational decline throughout history is that statesmen leave and are replaced by politicians.

If I'm wrong, more power to you and may you be the statesman we need to do your family and our nation proud.

WHAT'S PLAN B, J.D.?

In 2100, your youngest child will be approaching the advanced age of Presidents Trump and Biden. The election of Mr. Trump as President in 2016 will be as distant to her as the Truman Administration is to us. It was a soon after WWII, a costly struggle against Nazi and Imperial Japanese hegemons. Not that we wanted to enter that conflict. A mere lifetime before that was 1872, seven years after the Civil War. Who knows what Moscow, one of the belligerents that sparked WWII, intends to do to us between now and the 22nd century, which many American children will live to see? If history and the experience of your Ukrainian constituents in Ohio are any indication, Moscow will do what it has done for more than 600 years – play dirty, expand and play for keeps. Has it ever been otherwise? If you ignore or deny the threat Russia's war in Ukraine represents to U.S. economic, political and security interests, you imperil your daughter's generation with a severely weakened and impoverished country, isolated by Russia and the allies Putin is now colluding with against the United States and our allies. Distance does not matter in the cyber and nuclear age, indeed your wife and children's mother came from afar by way of her immigrant parents.

I understand the desire of many Americans to focus on domestic problems. But the Kremlin is forcing us to walk and chew gum at the same time, i.e. to deal with domestic and foreign problems simultaneously. Our choice is to abandon Ukraine and kick yet another can down the road to our children or we support Ukrainians like the French helped us win our War of Independence. Russia will not stop unless we help the Ukrainians stop them. They have already sunk a third of the Russian Black Sea fleet and have shot down many of their fighter planes and AWACs. So Ukrainians had a tough summer. So what? The American Revolution reached its nadir at Valley Forge in the third winter of fighting and it took another three winters to win. Thank heaven that George Washington didn't cut and run. Neither did President Zelenskyy, nor the Ukrainian Armed Forces. You shouldn't either because a Russian victory would encourage autocrats to further challenge America's mettle.

Z

НА КИЕВ

Z

Т-34

068

101
103

03

217

ОБЪЕДИНЯЕМ ДЕТЕЙ РОССИИ

5,45 мм АК-74М
3600

30
40

50

MILITARIZED RUSSIAN CHURCH

The Russian Orthodox Church appears to be eagerly participating in a Kremlin drive to militarize society. No longer persecuted by Soviet era atheism, Orthodox clergy have blessed the state's strategic bombers, tanks and other weapons of war, including an ICBM capable of reaching the U.S. However, many religious organizations have been increasingly persecuted or banned if they are seen as competing with Russian Orthodoxy. Some Evangelical churches, Seventh Day Adventists, Jehovah's Witnesses, Mormons and selected Muslims are prohibited by the so-called Yarovaya Law from preaching or proselytizing.

Russian newspaper editor Dmytri Muratov, who shared the 2021 Nobel Peace Prize, warned in his acceptance speech that "[Russian] authorities are actively selling the idea of war. People are getting used to the thought of its permissibility."

Russian Army Cathedral

"It is deeply gratifying to note the enormous constructive contribution of the Russian Orthodox Church and other Christian denominations in unifying society, preserving our historical memory, educating youth and strengthening the institution of family. Church organizations prioritize ... supporting our warriors taking part in the special military operation (in Ukraine). Such massive, complex and truly selfless work deserves sincere respect."

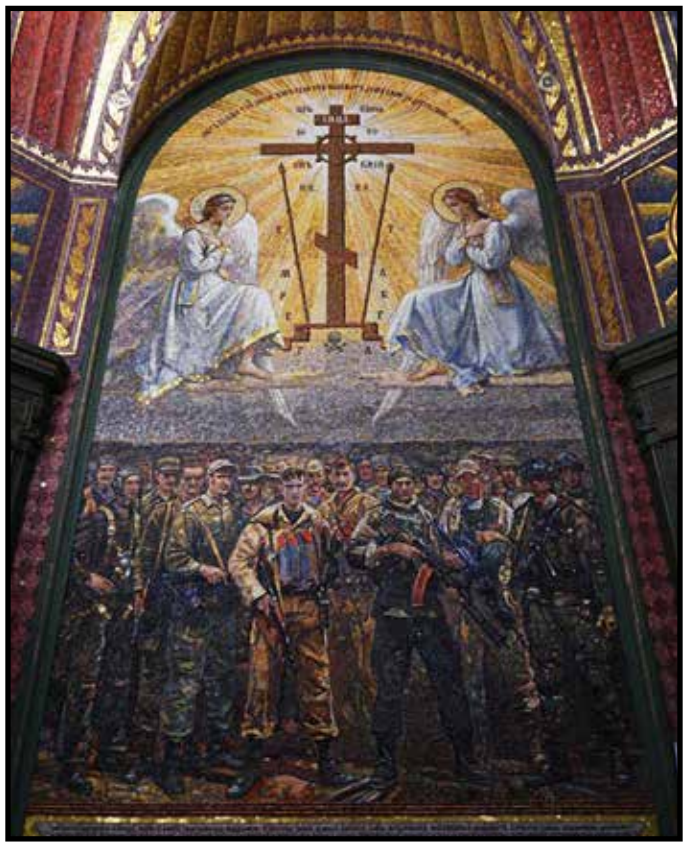
Vladimir Putin
January 7, 2023
Orthodox Christmas

"The Church recognizes that if someone, driven by a sense of duty, the need to fulfill the oath, remains faithful to his calling and dies in the fulfillment military duty, then he undoubtedly commits an act tantamount to sacrifice. He sacrifices himself for others. And therefore we believe that this sacrifice washes away all the sins that a person has committed"

Russian Orthodox Patriarch Kirill
Alexander Nevsky Church
Moscow Oblast
September 25, 2022

ROC Patriarch Kirill & President V. Putin

MILITARIZED RUSSIAN CHURCH



Mosaics & Stained Glass
Orthodox Cathedral of the Russian Armed Forces, Moscow

HALLOWED BE THY BOMB

183

31

03

ДА!
х053рв 99

717

РОМАН
ВОЗДУХО
ОПАСНО
ЗАБОРЧИК

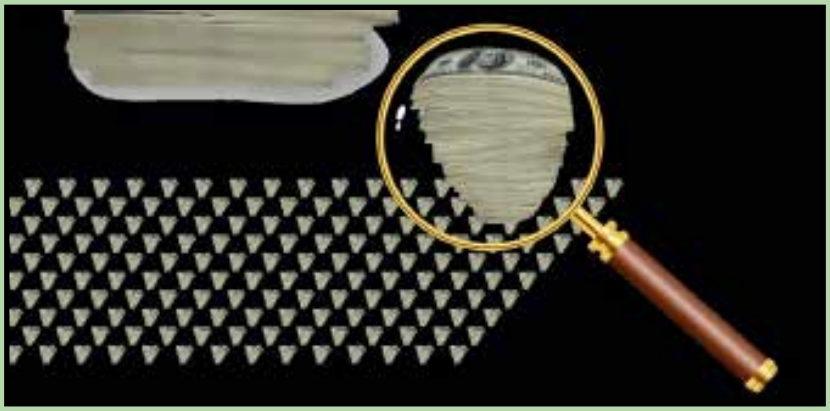
ВС РФ

AMERICA'S FUTURE

RUSSIA & UKRAINE

REAL HISTORY
REAL MONEY
REAL PEOPLE
REAL STAKES

VISUALIZING TRILLIONS



The preceding page is a visualization of what the Cold War cost: $25 trillion* (2023 Dollars), or 25,000 billion. The stack of bills represents that unimaginable sum. The amount the U.S. has appropriated to assist Ukraine, roughly $100 billion, is 250 times less. The difference is depicted visually with tiny cones beneath the stack, magnified on this page. There are 250 of them at relative scale. For comparison, American online spending between Thanksgiving and Black Monday in 2023 was $38 billion.

100 Billion vs. 25 Trillion

*** Estimates made five years after the end of the Cold War put its cost at $13.1 trillion. That is $25 trillion in 2023 inflation adjusted dollars.**

BLANK CHECK?

Sen. J.D. Vance
C-Span

Ohio's freshman Senator J.D. Vance campaigned on the need for accountability in Ukraine. He is among a number of senators and representatives who ask on behalf of their constituents where U.S. funds are going. Can they be better spent on urgent domestic priorities? Their concerns cannot be dismissed but should be allayed. Mr. Vance's predecessor, retired Senator Rob Portman, and other members in both houses of Congress have outlined thorough steps taken to audit to Ukraine aid.

"I do not believe there is any American aid going anywhere in the world that is more subject to audit and accountability than the money to Ukraine. And that's good. I'm for that. I hear some of my former colleagues saying we're just giving them a blank check. Oh my gosh! There have been 47 different reviews of U.S. taxpayer spending in Ukraine. Forty-seven. There have been nine GAO audits. There are three inspector generals, one at the State Dept., one at the Dept. of Defense, one at USAID that convene a group of 20 different agencies. It is extraordinary."

Cleveland City Club, November 17, 2023

Sen. Rob Portman
Cleveland City Club

Sen. Angus King
CBS Face the Nation

[Ukrainians] "They're working with Deloitte, the accounting firm. They're working with SAP software. They're accounting for every spare part that's coming into the country. Plus, we have an inspector general from the Pentagon who's going over, I think, next month. I was very impressed by the level of accountability. And so this argument that somehow the money's being wasted, I don't think holds water."

CBS Face the Nation, January 8, 2023

"To date, the Inspectors General of DoD, State, and USAID have not identified any significant diversion, theft, or misuse of U.S. assistance to Ukraine."

Michael McCaul, Chair, Foreign Affairs Committee
Mike Rogers, Chair, Armed Services Committee
Mike Turner, Chair, Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence

"Proposed Plan for Victory in Ukraine," November 15, 2023

RUSSIAN DISINFORMATION

Anatoly Antonov
Russian Ambassador to U.S.
Telegram

On December 12, 2023, the same day Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy visited Washington on a mission to secure critical American aid, Moscow's envoy to the United States, Anatoly Antonov, wrote that U.S. weapons are prolonging the war - the war his country started and could end today. Writing on Telegram, Mr. Antonov falsely accused Ukraine of spreading U.S. weapons to various regions of the world. Senator Rob Portman has addressed this specific issue.

"I've been to the 101st Airborne and the 82nd Airborne on the border of Poland with Ukraine where all the equipment comes in. Serial numbers are taken. Now, out in the field, we have the ability to track these pieces. Here's an extraordinary fact … which might change tomorrow. Not a single one of our military weapons - think of stingers or rocket launchers or anti-aircraft or the tanks now, or armored vehicles. Not a single one of the American pieces of equipment that have gone in has been taken by the Russians or misused or subject to some kind of corruption. Not a single one."

Former Senator Rob Portman
Cleveland City Club, November 17, 2023

Ambassador Antonov also provided fodder for indignant talk among some Americans that President Zelenskyy came to Washington as a "beggar." Such characterization of a leader seeking help to protect his citizens against brutal attacks is demeaning, especially when repeated by American politicians. The Ukrainian president's effort was precisely the kind of diplomatic mission, which Benjamin Franklin engaged in during the American Revolution. The oldest Founding Father asked for and received French financial and military support for the Colonies' cause.

Benjamin Franklin in Paris, 1778

PEACE THROUGH STRENGTH

President Ronald Reagan advanced a doctrine of “peace through strength,” which emphasized a robust defense and preparedness as crucial elements of domestic and international stability. However, the war in Ukraine revealed that U.S. arms production had been neglected and in need of revitalization. President Donald Trump addressed part of the manufacturing issue when he intervened to prevent closure of America’s last tank factory, the Joint Systems Manufacturing Center in Lima, OH. That facility receives some of the funds designated for Ukraine.

Ukraine’s requests for specific weapons, including Javelin anti-tank missiles, drew attention to gaps in U.S. capabilities not only to readily arm allies, but also to avoid perceptions of weakness that might tempt hostile powers to test the United States. Drones used extensively in Ukraine have revealed a need for modernization of U.S. military doctrine and stockpiles. In addition, the Russian invasion has highlighted bureaucratic hurdles in timely delivery of military assistance, which should be streamlined to make certain that America’s arsenal is ready to meet any threat on all fronts.

Donald J. Trump Visit to Joint Systems Manufacturing Center
Lima, OH
Photo: Carlos Barria/Reuters

Many billions of dollars in assistance for Ukraine has remained in the United States to pay for domestic U.S. arms production. But as Senator Rand Paul recently pointed out, that is a reprehensible justification for continued funding of the war in Ukraine. Unfortunately, war is, always was and will be reprehensible. Losing a war also has reprehensible consequences. America’s future is inescapably riding on Ukraine’s victory or defeat. Now, that Vladimir Putin has imposed war upon Ukraine and U.S. interests, America faces a fateful black and white choice: arming or disarming a nation that can work with us or be forced to work against us long into the future. As we pray for a just peace, we must also strive for a holistic understanding of the implications of our decisions. Neither Americans nor Ukrainians launched the war but we must live with its consequences.

NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT

Three nuclear powers signed the Budapest Memorandum in 1994 to provide Ukraine with assurances of its security in exchange for that nation's nuclear arsenal. At the time, it was the world's third largest. Ukraine honored its side of the bargain. Russia did not. By violating Moscow's solemn commitment to Ukraine, Vladimir Putin scoffed at his country's presumable goal of protecting humanity from nuclear proliferation.

Failure to honor Great Power assurances to Ukraine erodes trust in all international security commitments. This weakens the credibility of such agreements and makes it more challenging to convince others to follow Ukraine's peaceful example. If countries perceive that such assurances are not reliable, they may be more inclined to develop or acquire nuclear weapons as a means of ensuring their own security. Bad actors on the global stage are likely to be encouraged to develop or expand their own nuclear arsenals with which to blackmail others in pursuit of global or regional interests.

FOR THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION:
No. 65115
Certificate of registration
The Secretary-General of the United Nations
FOR THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:
FOR THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND:
FOR UKRAINE:
UNITED NATIONS
ORGANISATION DES NATIONS UNIES

Photo: AP

Ukraine, Russian Federation, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

and

United States of America

Memorandum on security assurances in connection with Ukraine's accession to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. Budapest, 5 December 1994

Entry into force: *5 December 1994 by signature*

SWORDS INTO PLOWSHARES

Had Ukraine not relinquished its nuclear arsenal in the spirit of Isaiah 2:4, there would be no war or need for American assistance today.

UN-100N/RS-18 ICBM'S - 130 Total
Six Warheads Each
1700 Total Warheads

Tactical Nuclear Weapons
Up to 4,200 Total)

Raduga Kh-55 "Kent" Cruise Missiles
1068 Total

Launch Silos
40 Total

Tu-95 "Bear" Strategic Heavy Bomber
29 Total

Tu-160 "Blackjack'" Strategic Bomber
15 Total

UKRAINIANS CONTRIBUTE TO U.S LIBERTY

Sgt. Michael Strank
Iwo Jima Flag Raiser
Ukrainian-American
Killed in Action, 1945

UKRAINIANS CONTRIBUTE TO U.S. LIBERTY

General Samuel Jaskilka
USMC Asst. Commandant
1975-78

Maj. Gen. N. Krawciw
3rd U.S. Infantry Commander
1987-89

Monument to Ukrainian-American Soldiers from
Cleveland Killed in WWII & Vietnam
St. Andrew's Cemetery
Parma, OH

Flag Blessing
Ukrainian-American
Vietnam Veterans Post 24
Parma, OH
June 15, 1991